sota formed a part prior to the act of 3d March, 1857, has been very satisfactory, embracing the establishment of guide meridians and standard parallels, township and subdivision lines, to the extent of seven thousand and twenty miles. Such portion of the archives of this district appertaining to the Minnesota surveys have been duly turned over to the surveyor general at St. Paul.

Arkenses.—The resurveya ordered in this State are now nearly completed, and the surveyor general is engaged in preparing the land records, with a view to the transfer of them to the State authorities upon the closing of this office, which may take place during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1859, should no further resurveys be found indispensable.

nearly complete. The work now consists principally of resurveys, of surveys of private claims, and of lands which have been supposed to be overflowed, but now found to be agricultural. Florida.—In consequence of the Indian hostilities no

surveys have been carried on. Should the Indians be re-moved to the West, the suspended contracts could be completed by the expiration of the fiscal year ending

en confined chiefly to the region known as the "Valles" been confined chiefly to the region known as the "Valles lying northwest of Santa Fe, and west of the Rio Grande. No surveys have been made of "private land claims" in New Mexico, none having been yet confirmed by Congress. The surveyor general recommends that a board of commissioners be appointed for the adjudication of titles, and that the period be limited for the presentation of claims. A summary prompt, and final adjudication

of claims. A summary, prompt, and final adjudication of Spanish and Mexican claims in the Territory is of great importance; not only to settle titles, but enable the department to separate private property from the public lands, so that the latter may be disposed of without dan-

Forty-eight 'donation' claims, under the provisions of the act of 22d July, 1854, have been filed in the surveyor general's office since his last annual report, eleven of which are recommended for recognition, the period of four years' settlement having expired.

Twenty-six 'private land claims' have been filed since his last annual report, making fifty-seven since the opening of his office at Santa Fe, New Mexico, of which sixteen are recommended by the surveyor general.

ing of his office at Santa Fe, New Mexico, of which six-teen are recommended by the surveyor general.

The extensive discoveries of the precious metals in New Mexico suggests the propriety, in legislating for the dis-posal of the public lands in that Territory, of excluding what may be found to be strictly mineral lands from gen-eral sales or locations.

Kansas.—The surveys have been prosecuted with en-ergy, returns having been made to the extent of seven-teen thousand miles.

housand miles.

raska.—Owing to the late period at which the sixth

principal meridian was established, the extent of the surveys is not so great as was expected; yet seven thousand miles of field-work have been returned, and the work is now being rapidly prosecuted, and it is expected that the surveys east of the sixth principal meridian will be the 20th large 1920. be closed by the 30th June, 1859

be closed by the 30th June, 1859.

Ulah,—The surveys of the public lands had rapidly progressed before the surveyor general abandoned his position, owing to reported hostilities on the part of the Mormon authorities at Salt Lake City.

This happened early last spring, since which time we are advised of the forcible disbanding of the clerks in the surveyor general's office, but are unjurged as to the

surveyor general's office, but are uninformed as to the safety of the archives of that office.

safety of the archives of that office.

Representations have been made unfavorable to the surveys which have been executed in that Territory, but we have no means of judging of the correctness of these statements without actual examination on the ground.

The extent of the surveys, since the beginning of the operations in Utah, exhibits a sphere of field-work empresing 2 000 000 acress and the work excepted at a cost. racing 2,000,000 acres, and the work executed at a cost

Culifornia.—The surveying operations have been pushed Culifornia.—The surveying operations have been pushed forward during the last year to a degree beyond the anticipation of this office, the surveyors, over and above the appropriations, liabilities incurred by the late surveyor general on that score having reached an indebtedness of upwards of \$220,000 to the United States deputy. These accounts for surveys under contracts with the surveyor general have been certified by the latter, and could not be paid for the want of funds applicable to that service. With a view to provide means as early as possible to liquidate that indebtedness, I have, by your direction, ascertained the amount, and submitted a deficiency estimate, so that speedy appropriation may be obtained.

certained the amount, and submitted a deficiency estimate, so that speedy appropriation may be obtained.

The summary of the field operations in California since the commencement of the service in 1851 to the present time consists of 82,000 miles of lineal surveys, embracing an area of upwards of 20,000,000 acres, at the aggregate expense of more than \$1,000,000; of which there were surveyed during the last fascal year ending June 30, 1857, 20,000 miles. 20,000 miles - equal to 9,000,000 acres.

20,000 miles—equal to 3,000,000 acres.

Oregon.—The progress of the surveys of the public lands and donation claims has been to such an extent that it is expected the portion of the Territory between the Cascade mountains and the Pacific ocean will be completed by the operations of another year. The extension by law of the surveying system east of the Cascades is rec-

ommended. Washington Territory.—Owing to hostilities of the Indians, the remoteness of the surveying region, sparseness of settlements, and the arduous and perilous nature of the service in that district, but limited progress in surveying has been made during the past year; yet the ties devolved upon the surveyor general at Olympia he 7e penuived all his attention.

That officer renews the recommendation of increase in mileage to deputy surveyors to indemnify them for the obstacles encountered in the density of timber, high wages,

stacles encountered in the density or timber, high wages, and cost of transportation of supplies.

These facts considered, and in view of the remoteness of this surveying district from commercial communities, his recommendation is concurred in, with the suggestion of increase also in his compensation.

Statement of the surveying operations of the public lands during year ending September 30, 1857.

| States or Territories. | Quantities, the plats of surveys of which have been returned to the General Land Office. | | | | s, the plats filch were started in |
|---|--|--------------|----------|--|--|
| | Resurveys. | | | Original sur- veys. | quantitie ys of w d to be re |
| | Mos. | Chains. | Links. | Acres. | Saimated of surve expects 1858. |
| Ohio Indiana Michigan Illinois Wisconsin | 13: | 5 12 2 61 | 79 57 | 236, 87 240, 16 1,106,058, 08 | 874,000 |
| Iowa Minnesota Missouri Arkansas | 129 | 0 41 | 96 | 334,882.67 1,753,192.93 46,608.00 | 830,000 1,452,000 100,000 |
| Louisiana Missisatppi Alabama Florida California | | | 89 | 70, 225, 00 9, 134, 098, 00 | 1,060,000 |
| Oregon Territory Washington Territory Kansas Territory Nebraska Territory | | | | 278,680.30 137,083.29 3,645,690.11 2,420,062.83 | 1,700,000 600,000 2,574,000 3,520,000 |
| New Mexico Territory. Utab Territory | | | | 114,329.73 1,258,432.04 | 100,000 |

This table shows the aggregate from 30th September, 1856, to 30th September, 1857. The statement in the first part of this report is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1857.

9,104 69 90 20,316,864.00 15,400,000

Ai the last session of Congress the following new land districts were created :
In Kansas, the "Delaware," "Osage," and "Western"

In Nebraska, the "Nemaha," "South Platte," and

'Dakotah' districts.

In Wisconsin, the "Chippewa" district.
There were also the "north-castern" and "north-westdistricts in Minnesota Territory, established by act

and opened here, all the necessary instructions written out, and the blank forms of various kinds transmitted, by mail and express, to the respective offices for the above

districts, the registers and receivers for which have entered upon the performance of their duties.

Answers.—The new surveying district of Minnesota.

Field operations for the establishment of the principal lines and subslivisions of the establishment of the public surveys have been commenced in the mortheast district on Lake Superior, and in the country south of the northwest district, north of lows, to the extent of four thousand and fourteen miles; but, owing to the limited time within which opening of the office of surveyor general took place, no returns of surveys have yet been received at this office from this new surveying district.

Wisconius and lows.—The summary of field work presented by the surveyor general for the surveying district.

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Wisconius and lows.—The summary of field work presented by the surveying district.

Wisconius and lows.—The summary of field work presented by the surveying distri In March, 1851, it was determined by the Secretary of the Interior, under the third section of the act of 27th September, 1850, pointing out the manner of making surveys in Oregon, to connect with the land surveys in Oregon, a geographical reconnoissance and exploration. With this in view, a transfer from a fund for similar service in the northwest was ordered, of 23,500; and Dr. John Evans was directed, on the 22d March, 1851, to proceed overland to ascertain the general geology of the country west of the Missouri river, toward the Rocky mountains; to reconnoitre for practicable wagon routes leading to Oregon, over the Rocky mountains, and, when there, to aid the surveyor general in obtaining the elevations of the country along the principal base and meridian lines, with the latitude and longitude at the intersection of those lines, and to keep his expenditures within the limits of the means placed by the department under his control. tures within the limits of the means placed by the department under his control.

On the 3d March, 1853, Congress made two separate ap-

propriations—one of \$11,984 25, for expenses incurred in a geological reconnoissance in Oregon uncertaken in 1851; and another of \$5,000, for completing that geo-1851; and another of \$5,000, for completing that geo-logical reconnoissance; whereupou, on the 19th of April, 1853, the geologist was instructed to complete the service under the latter appropriation, and make his final report thereon; both of which appropriations amounted to \$16,-984 25; and on 3d of March, 1855, Congress appropri-ated for this purpose the additional sum of \$23,560; making an aggragate of \$44,044 25. One item of the last appropriation was \$5,692 25, on account of excess of his expenditures over and above the \$5,000, per act of the 3d of March, 1853; another item of 13,000 25, for the completion of the geological explo-

of 13,000 25, for the 3d of starch, 1853; another item of 13,000 25, for the completion of the geological explorations in Oregon and Washington Territories. In placing the latter item under the control of the geologist on March 20, 1855, he was instructed to complete the work, make final report, and not to exceed it in his disburse-

The estimates on which the appropriation of \$23,560 was based included a third item of \$4,867 50, which had been expended by Dr. Evans in co-operating with the ex-pedition, under the authority of the War Department, for making the extreme northern railroad exploration from the Missouri to Washington Territory, thereby reducing to this extent the amount which has been appro-for geological service in Oregon and Washington to

In the adjustment of Dr. Evans's accounts to the 4th March last, it is found that he has again exceeded the amount appropriated for the completion of the work, and incurred an additional liability of \$3,574 70, to the liquiof which there are no means applicable under

sting laws.

The geologist, in a communication of the 13th November, 1867, states as follows: that "rich deposites of semibituminous coal have been discovered cropping out at various points from the British possessions to near the
boundary of California, and are almost inexhaustible in
quantity, and accessible to sail and steam navigation."

"Ores of iron, lead, platinum, and copper, have been
discovered; also, marbles, other limestones, and valuable
rocks for building purposes. The analysis of the coals,
imestones, and minerals is completed; also, of many of
the soils."

One hundred and five illustrations and two hundred

One hundred and five illustrations and two hundred one hundred and live illustrations and two hundred and seventy-seven pages of manuscript are completed, ready for the engraver and printer. "All the illustra-tions and analyses are in sufficient progress to keep the engraver constantly employed until the completion of the

The illustrations and manuscript referred to he ha filed in this office; but the complete report, which ante-cedent instructions required at his hands, has not yet been made. He further states that "the report will be about two-thirds the size of Dr. Owen's report, and will cost, if published in the same style, \$26,526, including the cost of preparing all the maps and other illustra-tions."

This sum, together with his claimed balance on accour

This sum, together with his claimed chance on account of his expenditure over and above the last appropriation, he states, "will amount to \$30,000."

The facts in regard to the origin of the service, and the appropriation for its completion at different times, with the progress in it, as reported by the geologist, are respectfully submitted for the consideration of

LANDS ON THE ALABAMA AND FLORIDA LINE.

Plats have been prepared of the strip of lands in Alabama, between the Florida line and Coffee's line. These to be certified by the Commissioner, as ex officio surveyor general, will be furnished to the authorities of the State of Alabama, and similar plats to the register and receiver at Sparta, within whose district the lands are situated; and hereafter a considerable body of lands which has been badd in survenue on the scuttery boundary of Alabama

held in suspense on the southern boundary of Alabama will be restored to market.

In the northeastern or Columbus district, Mississippi, there are about 32,000 acres of land, the title to which has been held in suspense for more than twenty years, because of the indebtedness of the late Gordon D. Boyd,

The mode of proceeding determined upon in this class of cases is to cancel the sales and restore to market one-half of the quantity above mentioned, on which no money was paid; and as the purchasers of the residue at marshal's sale shall pay up for the same, to issue the

The necessary instructions having been issued, and steps taken for the location within the Half Breed, Dakotah or Sloux reserve, of 320,819.48 acres in Minnesota, of the scrip authorized by the act of 17th July, 1854, and a sufficient time, in the judgment of this office, having elapsed for satisfying claims in the reserve, a proclamation, pursuant to the third section of said act, was issued, bearing date the 16th September, 1857, for public sales to take place in March next of the unlocated tracts within the limits of said reservation.

within the limits of said reservation.

Under the preliminary management of the Indian office, the township embraced in the astern portion of the Delaware trust lands in Kansas, certain town lots and blocks in Jacksonville, Delaware, Hardville, Lattaville, and Leavenworth city, were offered for sale in November last under proclamation by the President.

The initiative having been taken also at the same office in regard to the lands within the reserves of the foways, the western part of the Delaware and the Peorias, Kaskaskias, Piankeshaws and Weas, these lands were offered under proclamation for sale in June and July last.

The Office of Indian Affairs having requested the aid of the General Land Office in selling the Indian trust lands, instructions, prepared with great care, dated 29th September. 1856, in regard to the first sale, were transmit ted to the register and receiver at Lecompton, direct-ing them to co-operate with the special commissioner on the part of the Indian Office in selling the lands in ques-

At the second sale the land oncers at Domphan and Lecompton were, on the 10th May, particularly instruct-ed as to the manner in which the sales were to be con-ducted jointly by themselves and the special commission-er on the part of the Indian Office; and those sales were held and duly closed accordingly.

Only a portion of the returns of these sales have yet reached this office from the Office of Indian Affairs, such

portions have been preliminarily examined, so far as to enable us to make an adjustment of the accounts of sales of the Peorias, Weas, &c., and the eastern part of the Delawares; which adjustments were effected on the 2d and 7th Octo ber, 1857, and reported to the First Comptroller of the Treasury.

GRADUATION.

Under the provisions of the act of 3d March, 1857 Under the provisions of the act of 3d March, 1857, more than one hundred and fifty thousand entries for settlement and cultivation, &c., under the graduation act of August 4, 1854, have been confirmed; a large portion of them have already been patented, thus relieving the office of a vast amount of labor which, without legislative intervention, would have been required in the final adjustment of these cases.

The act of 3d March, 1857, however, is retroactive, and

justment of these cases.

The act of 3d March, 1857, however, is retroactive, and has no application to any entries subsequent to its passage. Therefore, in regard to all such subsequent to its passage. Therefore, in regard to all such subsequent entries, the registers and receivers have been instructed to notify purchasers, at the time of making them, that the proof of actual settlement and cultivation would be required within one year from the date of entry to entitle them to patent. Under this rule, all entries subsequent to act of 3d March, 1857, will be held up for one year from their date, unless proof of settlement and cultivation should be sooner produced. In default of such proof, there is no authority to carry them into patent, unless Congress shall otherwise order by further legislation.

I deem it proper again to suggest the necessity of further legislative action to give the proper construction to the act of 20th April, 1818, as recommended in our last annual report, so as to restrict the compensation commission of registers and receivers to a quarterly pro rula allowance of the maximum of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum, their compensation both for salary and commissions to commence and be calculated from the time they enter upon the discharge of their duties. By the rule adopted for the computation of commissions under the construction given to the said act by

sales of land; and the commission on warnest bestions is restricted by law, according to the realing of the department, to an amount which, added to the commissions on lands sold, will not exceed, in the aggregate, the maximum of \$2,500 for any one official year.

In the last annual report of this office, it was stated that a most liberal policy had been adopted, and ought to be continued, in the disposal of the pebble domain towards those making settlements thereon, that "except so far as Congress may make grants to the issued blates and Territories in aid of educational and internal improvement purposes, it is believed to be the true policy of the government to secure the public lands to actual settlers thereon, and withhold them, as far as practicable, from speculators."

The wisdom of the pre-emption policy is no longer the subject of controversy. It is established by the history

The wisdom of the pre-emption policy is no longer the subject of controversy. It is established by the history of every neighborhood and settlement throughout the West. This is said in full view of the fact that many fraudulent pre-emption claims are established by evasion and perjury; and that such will be the case, even under the most diligent administration of this and the local offices, especially during periods such as that through which we have recently passed, when the spirit of speculation has possession of the public mind. But this class of cases, when compared with the great body of honest claims, made by men flying upon the lamis, is too inconsiderable to weigh against our policy. The title to the lands should pass immediately from the government to the men who are to cultivate the soil. So far as it may be avoided, the spoculator should not be allowed to instervene.

With a view to a complete and practical policy, an amendment of the pre-emption laws was recommended to the last Congress, to the effect that a time should be fixed within which the settler upon unoffered land should complete his entry by the requisite proof and payment. The proposed amendment was not adopted, and the pre-emptor of unoffered land may make payment at his own pleusure, provided it be done "before the time fixed for the public sale of the land." To compel payment and the consummation of the entry, it is necessary to proclaim the land for public sale. Numerous and extensive settlements in Kansas, Nebraska, and Minnesota, and in portions of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan, formed during and prior to 1856, have so far matured, and the lands have been so long occupied as to justify the government in expecting and requiring payment.

It is recommended that pre-emptors upon ungived turveyed lands shall have one year from the date of settlement, and those upon unsurveyed lands shall have one
year after the return of the township plats to the local
office, within which to pay for the same; and that the
right of pre-emption upon unsurveyed lands be made general, so that the law in this respect may be uniform, the
privilege being limited, under existing laws, to California,
Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, and
New Mexico.

The twelfth section of the act of 22d July, 1854, relating to Kansas, and Nebraska, vacuities uptiles of the tract

The twelfth section of the act of 22d July, 1854, relating to Kansas and Nebraska, requires notice of the tract claimed by pre-emptors to be filed within three months "after the survey has been made in the field." It is recommended that this provision be so modified as to give the three months after the survey has been made and returned, thus assimilating it to the other statutes on the same subject. Where two or more persons may have settled upon and improved the same tract before the survey, the entry should be made by them jointly, and the maximum quantity of one hundred and sixty acres to each allowed on adjacent legal subdivisions of unoccupied lands.

maximum quantity of one hundred and sixty acres to each allowed on adjacent legal subdivisions of unoccupied lands. Legislation to this effect is recommended.

The recommendation of the last annual report is renewed, that the act of 3d March, 1853, be so amended as to render United States reserved sections along the line of railroads liable to pre-emption, as well when the settlement may have been made ofter as before the final allotment; that is, at any time before the public sale.

The general law of 3d March, 1855, and the special act of 3d March, 1857, granting pre-emptions to contractors carrying the mails through the Territories west of the Mississippi, have engaged the attention of the department, and to facilitate coverations under these laws, a cir-

Mississippi, have engaged the attention of the department; and to facilitate operations under these laws, a circular letter of instructions has been prepared, in which as regards the general statute, it is held, that, to constiright of pre-emption, the mail route on which the is based must form a part of a system stretching laterally across the territory, being a link in or part of a connected route from the line of the States west of the Mississippi to the Pacific, and that no benefit or privilege is conferred by the said act on routes stretching lengthwise in a northerly or southerly direction in the territory,

PRIVATE LAND CLAIMS.

The class of titles known as "private land claims," which had their orign under the governments that preceded us in sovereignty over the different sections of country now constituting our territory, are constantly coming before this office for examination in all their diversity of forms; and those finally confirmed and properly surveyed are carried into patent. Under this head individual Indian reserves also are referred, and are passed into patent after a critical examination of the whole basis of title, as resting on treaties and statutory provisions.

resting on treatics and statutory provisions.

A class of claims at the Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, of which official cognizance had been taken under the act of Congress approved 26th September, 1850, has been thoroughly examined at this office. Eighty-four of these have been finally confirmed; for thirty-two of these they have been made, and patent payments required by law have been made, and patent certificates have been returned to this from the local

Returns of the surveys, with the necessary transcripts, showing the final confirmation and survey of ranchos and other claims in California, are coming in, and are subject to critical examination, and carried into patent where found complete in all the proceedings. Eight of these titles have been carried into patent, including an aggregate area of over 190,600 acres, and covering one hundred and seventeen pages of record.

In connexion with the geological reconnoissance which has been read in Carron and Washington, alluded to in

In connexion with the geological recommosance winces has been made in Oregon and Washington, alluded to in the foregoing, and the discovery of extensive coal fields in those Territories, the attention of this office has been drawn to the immense growth and great value of the timber for naval purposes in the Pacific slope.

It is reported that the red fir for masts, roots of the

ber for naval purposes in the Pacific slope.

It is reported that the red fir for masts, roots of the white oak, cedar, and various kinds of fir, are suitable for ship knees. On Hood's canal, in the vicinity of Fort Gamble, and at Steilacoom, white pine is found in great abundance, and of excellent quality.

The facilities for the transportation of timber from Washington Territory are great; the harbors in Puget Sound being reported deep and quite accessible, admitting ships of the largest draught.

As an incidental matter connected with the disposal of the public lands, this office, in the elder land States, has

As an incidental matter connected with the disposal of the public lands, this office, in the elder land States, has instituted a system susceptible of extension to any part of the public domain, operating through the instrumental-ity of the local land offices, for the protection of the pub

lic timber.

This system, both simple and economical, has been found efficient in suppressing, to a great extent, the mischief of waste, and has operated in a most salutary manner in constraining trespassers to purchase lands which otherwise would have remained unsold. The evil will be the great extent obviated by an early introduction into market of the pineries, which have attracted the attention and stimulated the cupidity of depredators. With great respect, your obedient servant, THOMAS A. HENDRICKS,

Hon. JACOB THOMPSON, Secretary of the Interior.

Abstract of the Annual Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office. GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Sts: Pursuant to the resolution of the Senate of the 28th February, 1855, the following is submitted as an "abstract, or compendium" of the annual report from this office, bearing even date herewith.

This report treats of the following subjects, and is accompanied by the usual statistical tables of the lands surveyed, exposed to market, sold, granted, and otherwise disposed of, to wit:

1. The quantity of lands reads for the lands of the lands of the lands are the lands of the lan

1. The quantity of lands ready for market and not ad-

vertised—surveys returned—aggregate annual statement of sales and lands disposed of.

2. Bounty land warrants—acts of 1847,—50,—52, and '55—annual statements, with views respecting Virginia

55—annual statements, with views respecting virginia military claims.
3. Swamp land grant—statements, and a renewal of recommendation of further legislation.
4. Statement in relation to railroad grants.
5. Grants in Wisconsin—Fox and Wisconsin river grant—Des Moines river grant in Iowa.

8. Land on the Alabama and Florida line

Indian reserves—trust lands.

14. Reference to operation of pre-emption laws—fur-her legislation recommended.

35. Private land claims—and means adopted to proteet the timber growing upon the public lands.
With great respect,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS A. HENDRICKS,

Hou Jacon Trouseox, Secretary of the Interior.

CONGRESSIONAL. Thirty-Fifth Congress-First Session.

PRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1857

Mr. FESSENDEN presented a joint resolution of the agildature of Maine, requesting their senators and intracting their representatives in Congress to adopt such measures as they may deem best to prevent any change of the present laws granting bounties to vessels engaged in the cod-fisheries; also, a joint resolution in favor of the passage of a law imposing severe penalties against the introduction or importation into this country of foreign paupers and criminals, as the arrival of such persons imposes an unreasonable lax upon our citizens, besides cor-MUMORIALS, PETITIONS, PTV.

Mr. WILSON presented joint resolutions of the legis-lature of Massachusetts in favor of the recognition of Hayti and Liberia as sovereign and independent States, and of placing our diplomatic and commercial relations with them on the same feeting as those with other inde-pendent nations.

A large number of memorials and petitions of a private nature were presented and appropriately referred.

BESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

On motion by Mr. SEWARD, a resolution was adopted requesting the President of the United States, if compatible with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate copies of any correspondence which may have taken place between the Department of State and the ministers of Bremen on the subject of claims for losses alleged to have been sustained by subjects of the Hanse towns at the bombardment of Greytown.

On motion by Mr. GWIN, a resolution was adopted instructing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into the expediency of issuing a register to the steamer Fearless.

On motion by Mr. IVERSON, it was Ordered, That the reports and bills, together with the adverse reports heretofore received from the Court of Claims, and not finally acted upon, and the reports and bills, together with the adverse reports received from the Court of Claims on the 10th inst., be referred to the Com-NOTICE OF BILL.

Mr. DAVIS gave notice that to-morrow, or on some early day thereafter, he should ask leave to introduce a bill for the establishment of a navy-yard at the harbor of Ship Island, in the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. GREEN, in pursuance of notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to amend an act entitled "An act to provide for the payment of horses and other property lost or destroyed in the military service of the United States," approved March 3, 1849.

Mr. BRIGHT asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to divide the State of Indiana into two judicial districts, and to provide for holding the district and circuit courts of the United States therein.

Mr. DOUGLAS introduced a bill to authorize the people of the Territory of Kansas to form a constitution and State government, preparatory to their admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original States.

Mr. GREEN asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to confirm the title in a certain tract of land in the State of Missouri to the heirs and legal representatives of Thomas Maddin, deceased.

homas Maddin, deceased.

A message was received from the House of Representatives announcing the death of Hon. Jonn G. Montourer, a member elect of that body from the State of Pennsylvania, and communicating the proceedings of the House thereon.

Mr. BIGLER delivered an appropriate culogy on the character of the deceased, and submitted a resolution to go into mourning by wearing crape on the left arm for thirty days; which was agreed to.

AFFAIRS IN KANSAS.

The following resolution, which was submitted by Mr. aumsult on the 17th instant, was considered and agreed

Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate to the Senate all correspondence between himself or any of the departments and any governor, or other officer or person, in the employment of the government thought proper to move a select committee, he had no objection. If any one moved a select committee, it ought to have charge of that business also. ficer or person in said Territory, in relation to Kansas

affairs.

Mr. PUGH thought that perhaps that resolution would not include all the information which he would like to obtain, and he therefore submitted the following:

Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate to the Senate copies of the following documents:

1. Return of the votes taken in Kansas Territory at the October election, 1856, upon the question of calling a convention to frame a constitution and State government.

2. Act of the territorial legislature (in obedience 2. Act of the territorial legislature (in obedience to that vote) calling such a convention, and providing for the apportionment and election of delegates to the same.

3. The census and registration of voters, by counties or precincts, as taken under that act.

4. The apportionment of delegates made upon the returns of such census and registration.

5. Returns of the election by counties for delegates to the exercise.

imperatively required. As to the rate of interest, he had no idea that the notes would be issued at 6 per cent. interest, but it would be better to fix that rate as the maximum; he presumed the Secretary would try the market at 3 per cent.

Mr. SEWARD moved to amend the bill by adding a proviso that no such treasury notes shall be issued after the first day of January, 1859; and Mr. Huxten accepted the amendment.

Mr. SIMMONS alluded to the statement in the President's message that the present commercial crisis has "proceeded solely from our extravagant and vicious system of paper currency and bank credits;" and that these revulsions must continue to occur so long as the amount of paper currency and bank loans and discounts "shall be left to the discretion of fourteen hundred irresponsible banking institutions." He proceeded to vindicate the banks from this charge, and thought they ought not to be called irresponsible institutions. These evils were the effect of speculation; and he went on to allude to the relation of debtor and creditor, as existing between nations as well as between individuals. Productive industry was the only sure basis of wealth, and no nation should buy more than they can produce, or are able to pay for. He also thought the change of duties at the last session, which was made in order to deplete the treasury, had encouraged this speculation; and advocated a moderate protective tariff as a means of preventing England from obtaining that commercial ascendency to which she has been directing all her efforts ever since she found she could not conquer us by arms. He expressed a willingness to vote for the bill provided it would only authorize an issue of notes to the amount of \$10,000,000.

Mr. HUNTER would agree to make the bill tempo-Mr. SIMMONS alluded to the statement in the Presimount of \$10,000,000.

Mr. HUNTER would agree to make the bill tempo

Mr. HUNTER would agree to make the bill temporary, but could not consent to reduce the amount. If only ten millions were raised, he thought we should be called upon for another bill in January.

Mr. CRITTENDEN would prefer not to have any interest on the notes at all, but let them circulate as bank notes. It was rather strange that after the crisis was past, and the banks everywhere were resuming, the government should suspend; but the government must go on, and Congress must supply the means. It was only from the imperative necessity of the measure that he could consent to vote for it. He hoped that at a suitable and proper time this bill would be followed up by a measure to increase the revenue to an extent sufficient to meet all contingencies. When we get into debt we ought to make a simultaneous provision for the redemption of that debt.

debt.

Mr. BELL referred to the fact that many honest importers had been driven from the trade in consequence of the frauds committed under the tariff bill of last session, and thought that a revision of that system was indispensable. He could not vote for an issue of twenty millions, but was willing to vote for so much as was now necessary, could not consent to adopt a measure of permanent lief in this hurried manner. On the conclusion of his

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. After prayer, the journal of yesterday was read and

ipproved.
'The SPEAKER then announced the committee author ized by the resolution adopted by the House on Wednes-day last, to consist of Messrs. FALLENER, JONES OF Ten-nessee, HASKELL, HARLAN, and UNDERWOOD.

The SPEAKER laid before the body a letter from the

The SPEAKER laid before the body a letter from the Secretary of State transmitting extracts of a letter from John C. Rives relative to the purchasing of 500 copies of the diplomatic correspondence; which was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

Also, the report of the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the disbursement of the contingent fund of the House of Representatives for the last year; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

STATIONERY, ETC.

Mr. CLINGMAN, of North Carolina, submitted the ollowing resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Accounts be instructed to examine the stationery provided for the use of the members of the House, and report as to its real value; also, what it cost, and make such recommendations as

my be proper in the premises.

Mr. CLINGMAN stated that the stationery at the be-Mr. CLINGMAN stated that the stationery at the be-ginning of the last Congress was so inferior that he was compelled to go down into the city and purchase what he used. He had complained to the postmaster, who said that it was furnished by the Clerk. That of the present session was altogether inferior. If the stationery was chesp and money to be saved, he would have no objection. If the price paid was as much as that paid hereto-fore, there was a mistake somewhere. He did not know whether it was the fault of the Clerk, or because the arti-

cheap and money to be saved, he would have no objection. If the price paid was as much as that paid heretofore, there was a mistake somewhere. He did not know whether it was the fault of the Clerk, or because the articles were cheaper. He was induced to this action on account of statements of a serious character which had appeared, and in which charges were made of embezzlement of the public money. If any officers acted in combination with outsiders, and got money improperly by buying an article at a low rate and charging the government a high rate for it, it should be made a penitentiary offence. He knew nothing himself of the conduct of the late Clerk, still it was a subject for investigation.

Mr. HOUSTON, of Alabama, thought that the Committee on Accounts had as much to do without this examination as they could very well do. If the gentleman wanted to examine into the subject—and he thought it ought to be done—it seemed to him that he ought to ask for a committee, and give it charge of that subject, and nothing else. He did not know what had been the custom when a Clerk went out. He did not know whether an inventory of the property was taken or not; but if such a course had not heretofore been pursued, it ought to be neemed now, rewas taken or hot; but it such a course had not hereto-fore been pursued, it ought to be insisted upon now. If there was no law, there ought to be one made now, re-quiring a thorough, strict, and rigid examination before a new Clerk comes and takes charge of the duties of his

Mr. HOUSTON replied that he did not propose himself to move such a committee. He thought it devolved upon the gentleman from North Carolina to do it. He only proposed to second the investigation which ought to be made. After grave charges had been made against the outgoing clerk in relation to the duties of his office, it seemed to him that such a committee should have power to examine the books so that the body might see whether these reports were true or false. He would inquire why it was that that gentleman's friends on the floor had allowed so much of the present session to clapse without having seen fit to ask themselves for a committee to examine and investigate these charges. He did not himself desire to serve on a committee connected with that subject. He desired to ask his friend from North Carolina whether it was usual for the out-going Clerk to supply stationery for the incoming Congress.

Mr. CLINGMAN. I was teld so.

Mr. HOUSTON thought it required a rigid examination, and he hoped his friend would prosecute it until it had the desired result.

Mr. SAVAGE, of Tennessee, stated that his peculiar Mr. HOUSTON replied that he did not propose him

Mr. CLINGAN. I was tool as.

Mr. SAVAGE, of Tennessee, stated that his peculiar is tool the congress.

Mr. SAVAGE, of Tennessee, stated that his peculiar is the people of Tennessee and his own immediate constition.

Takashyr. Notes.

A. Journal of the conversion held at Lecompton to frame a constitution and State government.

Takashyr. Notes.

On motion by Mr. HUNTER, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill to authorize the issue of treasury notes; and Mr. H. briefly explained its provisions, in which one of the candidates, [Mr. Stanton.] now a member of the legislature for the county of Jackson, in which one of the control of

did not deem it necessary to go out into the columns of the newspaper press, and say whether that utterance was for or against a particular officer in the discharge of his of-ficial duty; for if that were done it would leave them but little else to do. It was time enough to inquire into the conduct of an officer of this House when it was made the subject of remark in the House. He supposed that is called upon by the proper committee they could examine and inquire, and see and know, and would at the proper time report to the House whether there were or were and inquire, and see and know, and would at the proper time report to the House whether there were or were not anything wrong in his official conduct. But it seem ed that they had been forestalled, and he was perfectly willing that it should be so; and if the honorable mem-

Mr. MAYNARD hoped that it would not be made a pelitical question.

Mr. CLINGMAN hoped so too. If he had made the motion, it might have been thought so.

Mr. MAYNARD asked the honorable member again if he would modify and adopt his suggestion, for the reason that he was a new member of the House, and inexperienced in its rules. He asked it as a personal favor.

Mr. CLINGMAN replied that if the gentleman would move such a proposition as he desired, he would accept it.

Mr. MAYNARD stated that the proposition he was about to offer was for the appointment of a committee to whom the accounts of the out-going Clerk should be referred for investigation, and which should report upon the same to the House.

Mr. CLINGMAN then submitted the following amendment:

Mr. CLINGMAN then submitted the conduct of William Resolved. That the accounts and conduct of William Cullum, late Clerk of the House of Representatives, be referred to a select committee of five, with instructions to inquire into the various items of his accounts, and report thereon at any time, and shall have power to send for persons and papers, and that they likewise have authority to look into the accounts and conduct of any previous Clerk, and to report thereon at such time as they may think proper.

Clerk, and to report thereon at such think proper.

Mr. MAYNARD said that this was not a time when he may be a such that the conduct of the out-going bad this confidence in the confidence in the said this confidence. was prepared to discuss the conduct of the out-going Clerk or any officer, but he had this confidence in the character and integrity of that gentleman amounting to a conviction that when the investigation was made he

of it.

Mr. NICHOLS, of Ohio, caused the 152d rule of the House to be read, which directs that from and after the passage of that resolution all accounts shall be made to the Clerk, or approved by him, before any allowance shall be made therefor by the Committee on Accounts. He added that, if he understood the law of the House, all accounts of the Clerk must be referred to the Committee on Accounts. Under this rule, this investigation could not be made by a select committee, as it would take from the Committee on Accounts the accounts of the Clerk.

The SPEAKER stated that he did not so understand it. Mr. KELLOGG, of Illinois, remarked that he was about to say that he was anxious that the widest latitude should be given to an investigation into the accounts of any officer of the House and the general government whenever the intimation was made that such a course was necessary. He was anxious on this occasion on account of the demand of the outgoing Clerk. It was wholly immaterial to him whether he was of his political faith or not; when it was asked to investigate his accounts he would vote for it in a resolution imbodying the greatest power to know whether there had been wrong or right in the execution of his duties as an officer of the House. He would, however, prefer, personally, that the conditions to this should not be made in the language in which it was made. He would not screen him in the action of any other Clerk. If gentlemen desired to investigate the action of the other Clerks they could do so by a motion. But he would vote for this resolution with the view of securing the rights and sustaining the honor of the outgoing Clerk, for he was worthy of being sustained, and there was no way by which they could get more fully and properly at the conduct and propriety of the discharge of the duties of an officer than by direct examination. He feared no investigation in this matter.

Mr. MAYNARD. Since this view has been taken, by

shands before the House.

Mr. BURNETT, of Kentucky, remarked that there

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

CONTESTED RECCTION

REPORTS PROM COMMITTEES

The committees being called for reports,
Mr. QUITMAN, from the Committee on Military Afairs, submitted the following resolution:
Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be authorized to employ a clerk, at a compensation of four dollars a day during his service.
Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, moved to append the

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, moved to amend the resolution so as to include the Committees of Elections, Foreign Affairs, Naval Affairs, Judiciary, Territories, Commerce, and Post Office and Post Roads.

The question was taken on the amendment, and it was disagreed to—ayes 115, nays 84; and the original resolution was lost.

Mr. FAULKNER, of Virginia, from the same committee, reported the following resolution.

Resolved, That the communication recently received from the Secretary of War calling the attention of the House to the clerical error by which the appropriation for the support of the national armories was omitted in envolling the last army appropriation bill, and which was laid upon the table, be taken up and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The resolution was agreed to.

gone into committee in consequence of its not having been printed; but if it was the pleasure of the House to go on with the bill, he would make his explanation now. Mr. BANKS, of Massachusetts, hoped that as the bill had not been printed, it would not be pressed at this

Mr. HOUSTON said it was true that the bill had not been printed, and it was an unusual course to ask the committee to rote on a bill of its importance before it had been put in a condition for the members of the committee to examine it; but from a reading of the bill, he had satisfied himself that it conformed in all its substantial parts to bills of a like character that had heretofore been passed, and in that view of the case, and in view of the great exigency of the public service, he thought that it should be considered at once. He had attended particularly to the reading of the bill, and he desired to know of the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means whether he was not right in saying that it conformed to the treasury-note bills passed heretofore.

Mr. JONES, of Pennsylvania, replied that it did.

willing that it should be so; and if the honorable member from North Carolina would modify his resolution so as to bring it within the scope of his remarks, he would be obliged to him.

Mr. CLINGMAN replied that he hoped the gentleman would move his resolution himself. He preferred not to be on any committee of that kind. If he would move it, he would vote for it. Not being of the same political party, he did not wish to make any further motion than he had.

Mr. MAYNARD hoped that it would not be made a political question.

of it.

Mr. NICHOLS, of Ohio, caused the 152d rule of the

of the duties of an officer than by direct examination. He feared no investigation in this matter.

Mr. MAYNARD. Since this view has been taken, by permission I will withdraw the latter part of my amendment and let it stand with reference to the late Clerk himself, and let him stand or fall with it.

Mr. KELLOGG. I concur with the gentleman, and shall most cordially vote for the resolution as it now stands before the House.

seemed to be a disposition to order this investigation. As the House fully understood the subject, there was no accessity for further debata, and he would therefore move the previous question.

Mr. HOUSTON, of Alabama, hoped the gentleman

from Kentucky would withdraw the previous question to allow him to suggest a modification.

Mr. BURNETT declined to do so.

The question received a second, the amendment wa agreed to, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

Mr. JONES, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the following bills; which were respectively read twice by their titles, referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

A bill to authorize the issue of treasury notes.

A bill making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian department, and fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the year ending June 30, 1859.

ending June 30, 1859.

A bill making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic expenses of the government for the year ending 30th of June, 1859.

Mr. HARRIS, of Illi

Mr. Vallandingham, contesting the seat of Lewis D. Campage, the sitting member for the third congressiona district of Ohio; which was referred to the Committee of Elections and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, remarking that it was known that the treasury was almost on the verge of bankruptcy, and that it was of the utmost importance that the bill for the issuing of treasury notes should be considered as early as possible, moved a suspension of the rules for the purpose of the House resolving itself into Committee of the Whole and proceeding to its consideration.

The motion was agreed to, and the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. Pheller, of Missouri, in the chair;) and proceeded to consider the bill to authorize the issue of treasury notes.

Mr. JONES, of Pennsylvania, stated that he did not intend to press this bill to-day in Committee of the Whole, and it was not on his motion that the House had

Mr. HOUSTON said it was true that the bill had not